

West Virginia Writers' Project

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Research Worker Samuel G Smith

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Water-Power and present development.

At the present time little or no utilization is being made of the many streams of Pocahontas County in the way of making electricity, save for a turbine installed near the mouth of Clover Creek by the Coyners of Clover Lick to operate an electric generator. Probably the greatest use to which the streams are put, and even this is infrequent and of small consequence is to propel overshot water-wheels to grind flour and feed, in the latter way there remains five mills but only four that operate throughout the year. These mills are as follows on Stony Creek use to be known as the Geiger mill but now run by the present owner Tolbert Waugh. The McNeel mill at Millpoint owned by Dr. H. W. McNeel and run by different millers, the Locust Creek Mill owned by Wallace McCoy and run by his son Sidney but only grinds corn. The Hogsett mill or better known as the lower mill at Millpoint was run for years by the late T. W. Hogsett both mills at Millpoint ground both corn and wheat but since the death of Mr Hogsett this mill has been run very little and then only corn was ground but in connection with this mill was a carding machine run by the same power but it has ceased to run on account of the water-power, in the race, due to floods in recent years. The Heavener mill on North Fork above Arbovale is owned by the Orndorffs and still grinds wheat, corn, buckwheat and feed, these mills have played a very important part in the development of Pocahontas County, along with some that have ceased to run and

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been torn down namely the Isaac Smith mill on Greenbrier River at mouth of Stevens Hole Run, The McClintic mill at the entrance of McClintic Farm, the Hill mill beyond Jacox and many other small corn mills, were run by water-power from small streams and waterfalls throughout the county, and many were the grists of corn ground on these mills that came from what is known as new ground when our forests were cleared into fertile fields that we till today.

Streams available for water-power development are Greenbrier River that carries the greater part of Pocahontas County's rainfall, it is made up of two forks the West Fork coming from the east of Shavers Mountain near Wildell with an elevation of 3,625 feet, the East Fork heads at Blister Swamp on the western slope of Allegheny Mountain with an elevation of 3,875 they come together at Durbin and make the Greenbrier River proper and it continues its southwest journey through the county, through Greenbrier County and enters New River at Bellepoint just below Hinton where the elevation is 1,375 or a drop of about 2,500 feet making this a stream with plenty of power undeveloped. It drains an area of about 687.06 square miles in Pocahontas County with a never failing supply of water. Locust Creek undeveloped save for one grist mill, it is a tributary of Greenbrier River. Hills Creek which heads high up on Kennison Mountain flows south to form the Falls of Hills Creek which are very beautiful this stream has a steady flow of sparkling mountain water. Bruffeys Creek whose source is on the side of Viney Mountain winds its way down the narrow

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Valley and sinks southeast of Lobelia. Stamping Creek whose source is Cranberry Mountain sinks up the creek and rises just above Millpoint where it runs over overshoot wheels that grind feed and flour, its rate of fall is 251.5 feet per mile. Milling has been done here since the early 80s. The Blue Spring feeds the main creek while a spring coming out of the Gillan Mountain furnishes water for the race that runs the McNeel mill. Swago Creek with considerable volume is fed largely by springs namely McClintic Run, Overholt Run, Dry Creek, Cave Creek and Bucks Run this stream has considerable fall capable of running an electric generator or over shot wheels. Knapps Creek a tributary of Greenbrier River with the largest flow of water of any entering the Greenbrier has a fall of 58.2 feet per mile. Stony Creek has a fall of 196.9 feet per mile and on this stream we find the Waugh mill. Cloverlick Creek whose source is Gay Knob and Cloverlick Mountain has a fall of 161.2 feet per mile, near the mouth of this stream is a small turbine that operates an electric generator. Sittlington Creek its source high up on Allegheny Mountain has a fall of 136.5 feet per mile. Deer Creek the second largest tributary of the Greenbrier in Pocahontas County heads in Frank Mountain, flows near Greenbank and Arbovale and on to the river but before getting to the Greenbrier it has cut a beautiful ox bow gorge, this stream could be easily harnessed and put to work supplying electricity to the entire Greenbank District. Cranberry River heads on Cranberry and Black Mountain